

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

25 July

Yes! That's today's edition of the Towns County Herald and just another day in America. Not!

As I've alluded to many times, each and every day in America is a day to look back at history and how much those

who have served our Unique Sovereign Republic in uniform mean to each of us. Without doing further research, I'd venture there are few days of the year that are not dated with some significant event whereas those who sacrifice to serve our nation have not been involved in keeping America and Allies secure. And yes, today's date has significant history for us to remember all the way back to 1729. Let's just pick a few:

1963: Believe it or not the USA, Soviet Union and Britain signed a treaty prohibiting the testing of nuclear weapons anywhere! Underground, in space, or underwater. This took place in Moscow. Our men and women in uniform have stood fast ever since in efforts to prevent those horrible weapons from ever being used again. Support them and pray for them in this effort!

1964: No action taken on this one, however the NSC and the Joint Chiefs recommended air strikes against the North Vietnamese Communists as Communist infiltration worsened. Then in August NVC torpedo boats attacked USN destroyers off the coast of North Vietnam. Voting strictly in favor of defensive action our Congress voted almost unanimously for the "Gulf of Tonkin Resolution" giving our Executive office the power to take all measures necessary to defend our Navy. As we all know it went to hell in a hand basket thereafter.

1967: Donald Davis, USN Lt, Commander gave his life when his jet crashed into the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

1969: Nixon Doctrine written and expressed by President Nixon with expectations for all Asian allies to manage their own military defense. This could be taken as a hint that the politically mismanaged Vietnamese War was coming to an end. But not so quick! The slow withdrawal of Americans didn't occur until 1973, leading to Communist takeover of South Vietnam resulting in murders of millions of good decent South Vietnamese peasants, farmers and business folks. This was the very type of devastation our outstanding men and women who sacrificed so much were striving to prevent. Once again our men and women who served never gave up or lost their honor. The political class however did. That touch and go war over there was wrought with mistakes from the top down.

How does America defend its Allies from aggression, treading lightly trying to avoid a nuclear war and succeed? Those valiant men and women, like always in American history did what they had to do. Those who volunteered as well as those who were drafted deserve our utmost honor and thanks for what they did and undoubtedly still suffer from those remembrances of that extremely costly effort.

Still wondering about July 25, 1729? North Carolina became a royal colony only to be undone a few years later by our War for Independence.

Semper Paratus

Beware the Worms

Fall armyworms can be a menace to lawns, pastures, and grass crops such as corn and sorghum. They arrive every year in the late summer or early fall. They can be very damaging to your plants so let's look at what they are, how to spot them

quickly, and what you can do for management of them.

Fall armyworms have four life stages. They winter in Florida, as they can only survive a mild winter. Each successive generation moves northward, causing a lot of damage as they advance. The females will lay egg masses of up to 700 eggs at a time. After coming out of their eggs the larvae, the caterpillar stage, will be about one quarter to three quarters of an inch long. The larvae go through six stages of development. Each stage eats more than the one before it. However, the final stage of larval development eats more than all the other stages combined. Armyworms take two to three weeks to reach the pupal stage, where they go into cocoons. After about a week in the cocoon the armyworm moth will emerge. These moths will travel further northward and lay eggs repeating the cycle.

Larval stage is when they will do damage to lawns, pastures, and grass crops. At this stage they can get up to 1.5 inches long. Their coloring can vary from light green to nearly black with dark stripes that stretch horizontally down the length of their body. Their most distinct characteristic and the best way to identify them is by the inverted Y shape on the head. The point of the Y is at the back of the head.

Signs to look for are flocks of birds in the morning and evening. That is when armyworms will do most of their feeding. During the heat of the day they will retreat to the thatch below. The armyworms will preferentially feed on tender green vegetation. Damage from armyworms can also look like thin brown patches. One method of checking for armyworms is to mix two tablespoons of lemon-scented dish soap with a gallon of water, and then pour that into a one square foot area. That will irritate the worms and make them crawl up so that they're more visible. The soapy water method works on all caterpillars, not just armyworms. Usually treatment is recommended if there are more than three armyworms per square foot.

If you have a well-established lawn armyworms may feed on the grass but most likely will not kill the grass, however the damage is unsightly. The only really effective way to control armyworms is through insecticides, and even then control will be very difficult on full grown caterpillars. Therefore, scouting early is essential. Sevin is an effective product that has been around for a while. Products containing spinosad or Bacillus thuringiensis have organic options and good control of armyworms. Applying as late in the evening as possible is best because that's when armyworms will be the most active and pollinators the least active. Whenever using pesticides always read and follow the label before the application.

The Extension is available is you need help identifying a pest. You can email a picture of the insect to Jacob.Williams@uga.edu or bring one into the Extension office in a sealed container.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran



Good Samaritans

It's hard to live in the country without a truck. So we don't. Our truck is over 20 years old, just getting broken in. It's not the best looking truck around. Life on the farm has a way of leaving it looking somewhat...weathered. But we love our old truck and we try to take care of it.

There's no need to tell you all the reasons why we need a truck on the farm. They are probably the same reasons you bought yours. But there's one reason above all others. Every ten days to two weeks, we load up the truck with trash and head to the transfer station for what my wife likes to call our "dump date."

No one moves to the mountains for the shopping, the number and variety of restaurants or the nightlife. We have an ample share of all those things for a small, rural area, but the truth is, people usually move here to escape the bustle of the cities and to enjoy nature.

That's exactly why we live here, but every once in a while my wife gets her fill of nature and needs a change of scenery. Sometimes we run out of groceries or we have plenty of food and no one wants to cook. Now if any of those conditions coincide with an overabundance of trash, a dump date is born.

Last week we were on such a date. Having addressed the "dump" part of the outing, we were driving around, taking the scenic route and trying to decide if it was going to be fried chicken and beef tips, or a hand made burger or maybe even enchiladas for lunch. Of course you have to walk off a big lunch like that, and there are a number of good antique stores in the area that are perfect for improving one's digestion.

Alas, this was not to be, for our dump date was destined to become what we like to call "adventure driving." Adventure driving can happen at any time and in any place, and it can happen without warning. Fortunately for this adventure, we did have some warning in the form of a temperature gauge leaning much too far to the right as a very distinctive smell accompanied the steam beginning to escape from under the hood.

I pulled the truck onto the shoulder of the nearest side road, popped the hood and discovered a pinhole in the radiator. Like many of my fellow old truck enthusiasts, I habitually carry a jug of antifreeze behind the seat, but that jug had been emptied and not replaced. The drive was threatening to turn from adventure to ordeal.

The sun was hot that day, but Fortune smiled on us and provided a large shade tree, the only one around in the field where we had landed. So we waited for the engine to cool and my wife, denied both a meal and a trip to the antique store, with her sharp eyes discovered that the gravel road where we were parked had been built through an old landfill which, after all the rain, was revealing a wealth of antique glass bottles.

While she contentedly set about looking for bottles, I did a quick check of the engine to see if there were any further complications.

We all have our idiosyncrasies. One of ours is water. We're spoiled with good water at home, and if you get your water from a spring head or a well, you know exactly what I'm talking about. I think we could taste a single molecule of chlorine in a glass of water, and just about every restaurant I've ever been in, even the expensive ones, serve tap water. Why restaurants don't invest in a water filter for their customers is a mystery to me. But because they don't, we usually bring our own water from home when we go out to eat. There had been a slight miscommunication when we were getting ready for our trip so we had three thermos bottles of cold water in the truck.

This was just enough, pouring very slowly from the bottles, to begin cooling the engine down. But Fortune smiled on us again. I had just emptied the last bottle, (not nearly enough to fill the radiator) when out of nowhere a couple in a jeep appeared on our road and asked if we needed help. These Good Samaritans actually drove to at least two different places to bring us enough water to get back on the road.

We made it back to town just as the temperature gauge began to look worrisome again, and the third Good Samaritan of the day gave us a gallon jug of water for the radiator. Fortune was not done smiling on us, however. When we finally limped in to the repair shop, as busy as he was, the owner gave us a ride back home, miles away on the other side of the county.

We thought you might enjoy a reminder of the kind of place where we live, and the kind of people who live here. If you watch news or spend any time at all on social media, it's easy to get the idea that the world is a rotten place. That just isn't true.

The fact is, all the crime, scandal and misfortune presented to us all day, every day, is the exception, and not the rule. Bad things happen, of course.

But there is a lot more good than bad, especially here in our mountain home.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED OR MAILED TO: Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net. Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes. This paper reserves the right to edit letters to conform with Editorial page policy or refuse to print letters deemed pointless, potentially defamatory or in poor taste. Letters should address issues of general interest, such as politics, the community, environment, school issues, etc. Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.*
Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

Just Butt Out

"Why do you hate smokers?" my cousin with brown teeth asked when told he'd have to finish his cigarette before coming into my house. I do not hate smokers. How could I? Many of the people I loved dearly and enjoyed immensely were smokers. My father, the youngest of 13 children, was born in 1922. One of his parents and 11 of his siblings smoked tobacco products. Dad started smoking at a tender age.

The dangers of nicotine in tobacco were not well known if at all, when my daddy was a kid. As a youth, I didn't know how unhealthy ciggies were but I knew that the awful stench, cloudy air, and coughing jags were caused by them. Magazines and TV programs glamorized the act of smoking. My second favorite lawyer, Perry Mason (my daughter, Amy is my very favorite) smoked. Those pretty-boy detectives from 77 Sunset Strip smoked. Why even, Sheriff Andy Taylor smoked.

Fast forward. There is nobody on the planet Earth over the age of 6 months, who is unaware of the harm nicotine-containing tobacco causes. My cousin could not come into my house with his lit cigarette because my two precious children Amy and Jay were in there.

Smoking is prohibited in Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge. That means the entire property. It is well posted. The health of one's lungs, heart and all other organs is her or his own ball of wax, but not at the risk of other people's health.

Nicotine, once used as an insecticide against aphids, thrips, spider mites, white flies and other sucking insects, because it incapacitated their nervous systems, has been banned. Seems it also affected plants and farmers as well. Plants apparently suffer from passive (second hand) smoke. Tobacco transmits tobacco mosaic virus which stunts growth and reduces crop yield. TMV does not die when the host plant does. It remains dormant in the dead tissue and infects another plant at a later time.

I've been helping She Whose Name Must Not Be Mentioned at The Garden the last few weeks. It's been fun. Birds provide live music and garden visitors have been interesting. The Paris Pavilion has been busy hosting family reunions, weddings, club meetings and lectures. Though July has been on the wet side, there have been stretches dry and hot enough to make me think of mending my evil ways. During those driest spells, cigarette butts have been thrown on dry mulch. What a potential danger! Yes, The Garden has insurance, but there is no way those majestic plant specimens could be replaced. People and animals could have been hurt or killed had a fire erupted.

Some people who choose to break the no smoking order, and yes, it is an order, not a request, put their stinking butts into trash receptacles to stew and mingle with apple cores, half-eaten roast beef sandwiches, and a few not quite empty milk cartons in 94 degree heat. Even in that heady mixture, the smell of those nasty butts is prevalent. What a sucking thrip.



"Yeah, I know just how you feel, Lady. We all still miss the sales tax holiday!"

Towns County Community Calendar

Bridge Players	Every Monday: All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Every Tuesday: Old Rec. Center	4 pm
SMART Recovery	Every Wednesday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Bridge Players	Every Thursday: All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Every Friday: Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Movers & Shakers	Every Saturday: Sundance Grill	8 am
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Sunday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	First Monday of each month: 1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	6:30 pm
Mtn. Amat. Radio	First Tuesday of each month: McConnell Church	1:30 pm
Alzheimer's Supp.	First Wednesday of each month: VFW Post 7807	4 pm
American Legion	First Thursday of each month: City Hall	6 pm
Hiaw. City Council	First Friday of each month: YH City Hall	7 pm
Young Harris Coun.	First Saturday of each month: McConnell Church	10 am
Quilting Bee	First Sunday of each month: Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Stephens Lodge	Third Wednesday of each month: McConnell Church	10 am
Quilting Bee	Third Thursday of each month: Call Joff @ 386-530-0904	11:30 am
MOAA	Third Friday of each month: Daniels Steakhouse	6 pm
Book Bunch & Lunch	Third Saturday of each month: Clubhouse	5:30 pm
Friendship Comm.	Third Sunday of each month: Civic Center	11 am
Republican Party	Fourth Monday of each month: Daniel's Restaurant	5:30 pm
Goldwing Riders	Fourth Tuesday of each month: 1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	6 pm
Red Cross DAT	Fourth Wednesday of each month: Daniel's Restaurant	5:30 pm
Lions Club	Fourth Thursday of each month: Cadence Bank	5:30 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Last Friday of each month: Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

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Phone: (706) 896-4454 Fax: (706) 896-1745 Email: tcherald@windstream.net
Or mail to: PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546

Towns County Herald

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